

VANIKORO QUOY & GAIMARD, 1832 (MOLLUSCA, GASTROPODA);
PROPOSED VALIDATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS.

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For more than a century, the name *Vanikoro* has been widely used for a genus of tropical and subtropical marine gastropods. It still is in almost universal use, although the name is not valid under two provisions of the new Code. A case for preserving the name is presented below. The status of the name requires clarification in connection with the forthcoming *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology* (Part J).

2. The name "*Vanikoro*" first was published by Quoy & Gaimard in 1832 (*Voy. Astrolabe, Zool.* 2 : 239). Discussing *Sigaretus cancellatus* Lamarck, 1822, which Quoy & Gaimard obtained at Vanikoro (one of the Santa Cruz Islands, Melanesia) and which they referred to the genus *Velutina* [Fleming, 1820], they stated "Quoiqu'il y ait quelques différences entre ce Mollusque et celui dont M. de Blainville a fait son genre Vélutine, ses rapports généraux sont suffisants pour ne pas l'en séparer et former un genre nouveau, comme nous l'avions fait sous le nom de Vanikoro". The name "*Vanikoro*" was not applied to a gastropod elsewhere in Quoy & Gaimard's work.

3. For two reasons this is not a valid introduction of a generic name :

(1) It was proposed in synonymy [Article 11d].

(2) It was not italicized and may be construed as a vernacular name (note comparison with "*Vélutine*") [Article 16b(i)].

4. Subsequent to 1832 and before 1840, *Vanikoro* appears to have been mentioned only once in the literature. In 1838, Deshayes & Milne Edwards (Lamarck, *Hist. Nat. Anim. s. Vert.* (ed. 2) 8 : 559) referred to "le genre nommé Vanikoro par M. Quoy". Again, the name appears to have been used as a vernacular.

The name was adopted by Gray in 1840, 1841, and 1842 as a validly proposed generic name, but was mis-spelled by him *Vanicoro* (see paragraph 6 below). H. & A. Adams (March 1854, *Gen. rec. Moll.* 3, pl. 41), A. Adams (15 December 1854, *Proc. zool. Soc. London* 21 : 174-175, pl. 20), and later others, adopted Gray's mis-spelling. H. & A. Adams (April 1854, *Gen. rec. Moll.* 1 : 374-375) were the first to adopt the name as originally spelled (*Vanikoro* Quoy & Gaimard). H. & A. Adams (1854) and A. Adams (1854) were the first to assign a gender to the name : feminine (see footnote, p. 335).

5. The claim has been made that the gastropod identified by Quoy & Gaimard as *Sigaretus cancellatus* Lamarck [*Velutina cancellata* (Lamarck)] is not Lamarck's species. Récluz (1843, *Proc. zool. Soc. London* 11 : 137) renamed, without explanation, Quoy & Gaimard's species *Narica quoyi*. Later, Récluz (1846 ["1845"], *Mag. Zool.* (2) 7(9) : 24) claimed that Quoy & Gaimard had *Narica petitiana* Récluz, 1843 (*ibid.*, pp. 138-139), which in 1843 he had considered distinct from *N. quoyi*.

E. A. Smith (1908, *Proc. Malacological Soc. London* 8 : 106) has synonymized *N. petitiiana* and *N. quoyi* Récluz with *Vanikoro cancellata* (Lamarek). Such action appears to have been correct, because Quoy & Gaimard's figures (pl. 66 bis, figs. 20–22) even more closely resemble the shell identified by authors as *Sigaretus cancellatus* than do Chemnitz's illustrations (1788, *Syst. Conch.-Cab.* 10 : pl. 165, figs. 1596–1597), the figures on which Lamarek's species is based. The particularly large aperture characteristic of the species is not well shown in Chemnitz's fig. 1597, but it is evident from Lamarek's placement of the species (in the genus "*Sigaretus*" [= *Sinum*]) and from his description and discussion, that his name *does* pertain to the only known large *Vanikoro* with a particularly large aperture.

6. The name *Vanikoro* has been mis-spelled and emended (latinized) in various ways. Mis-spellings :

Vanicoro Gray, 1840, *Syn. Brit. Mus.* (ed. 42), [issue 2], p. 152 ; 1841, *ibid.* (ed. 43), p. 126 ; 1842, *ibid.* (ed. 44), p. 90. Name not attributed to Quoy & Gaimard. Mis-spelling *Vanicoro* first attributed to Quoy by Agassiz (1845, *Nom. Zool., Moll.* : 95).

Vanicora Paetel, 1887, *Cat. Conch.*, (ed. 4), 1 : 511.

Vanikora Whitfield, 1891, *Bull. American Mus. nat. Hist.* 3 : 387–388.

Emendations :

Vanikoroia Martin, 1914, *Samml. Geol. Reichs-Mus. Leiden*, n.f. 2(4) : 170.

Vanikoroa Cossmann, 1924, *Essais Paléconch. Comp.* 13 : 163.

7. Four objective synonyms of "*Vanikoro*" Quoy & Gaimard, 1832, apparently were proposed in the following order :

Merria Gray, 1839(?), in Beechey, *Zool. Blossom* : 137. Type-species (monotypy) : *Sigaretus cancellatus* Lamarek.

Leucotis Swainson, 1840, *Treat. Malacol.* : 346. Type-species (monotypy) : *Sigaretus cancellatus* Lamarek.

Narica Orbigny (*ex Récluz* MS.), 1842(?), in Sagra, *Cuba, Moll.* (French ed.) 2 : 39. Type-species (original designation) : *Sigaretus cancellatus* Lamarek.

Nioma Gray, 1842, *Syn. Brit. Mus.* (ed. 44) p. 60 [*Niomia* p. 90, name only] (no included species ; *nomen dubium*) ; *Nioma* Gray, 1847, *Proc. zool. Soc. London* 15 : 156 (name in synonymy). Type-species (designated) : "*Nerita cancellata*, Chem." [non-binomial] = *Sigaretus cancellatus* Lamarek. [*Niomia* Gray, 1840, *Syn. Brit. Mus.* (ed. 42) [issue 1], p. 147 (*nomen nudum*, *fide* Neave) ; *ibid.*, [issue 2] p. 151 (*nomen nudum*)].

According to Récluz (1843, *Proc. zool. Soc. London* 11 : 137) Orbigny's text was issued before Gray's name *Merria* was published. If this is so, *Narica* or *Leucotis* may have priority over *Merria*. The dates above are those given by Neave. The publication dates of Orbigny's work on the molluscs of Cuba have yet to be rigorously determined, and the date 1839 on the title page of Beechey's *Zoology of the Blossom* requires confirmation.

8. Three of the four objective synonyms of "*Vanikoro*" listed in paragraph 7 have been mis-spelled :

Leucotus Sowerby, 1842, *Conch. Man.* (ed. 2) : 172 (error for *Leucotis* Swainson).

Niomia (see paragraph 7).

Merrya Récluz, 1846 ["1845"], *Mag. Zool.* (2) 7(9) : 7-8 (error for *Merria* Gray).

Niona Paetel, 1887, *Cat. Conch.* (ed. 4), 1 : 511 (error for *Nioma* Gray).

9. The oldest family-group name based on any of the above generic names is VANIKOROIDAE Gray (1840, *Syn. Brit. Mus.* (ed. 42) [issue 2] pp. 121, 152). H. & A. Adams (1854, *Gen. Rec. Moll.* 1 : 374) corrected the spelling to VANIKORIDAE. Subsequently, the name has also been spelled VANIKOROIDAE.

Article 29(b) of the new Code, relating to the formation of family-group names based on generic names not of classical origin, does not explain whether, in the present case, Gray or H. & A. Adams is to be considered the zoologist who first published a family-group name based on *Vanikoro* Quoy & Gaimard. This determines whether the name should be spelled VANIKORIDAE or VANIKOROIDAE.⁽¹⁾

Two other family-group names, both based on generic names listed in paragraph 7, have been proposed :

NARICIDAE Récluz, 1846 ["1845"], *Mag. Zool.* (2) 7(9) : 6, 16.

MERRIIDAE Hedley, 1917, *Journ. Proc. Roy. Soc. New South Wales* 51 : Suppl., p. M62.

10. The name *Vanikoro* has been very widely used as a valid generic name, both in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The name even appears among the examples in the New International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1961, p. 33). E. A. Smith used the name in the most recently published taxonomic study of the genus (1908, On the known Recent species of the genus *Vanikoro*, Quoy & Gaimard. *Proc. Malacological Soc. London* 8 : 104-117).

Vanikoro has been used by malacologists since 1900 in the following countries :

Great Britain (G. B. Sowerby, 1901 ; E. A. Smith, 1908 ; W. H. Turton, 1932)

France (Couturier, 1907 ; Dautzenberg & Bouge, 1932 ; Delpey, 1942)

Netherlands (Schepman, 1909 ; Oostingh, 1931)

Germany (Thiele, 1929 ; Wenz, 1940)

Sweden (Hägg, 1929)

U.S.A. (Bartsch, 1915 ; Hertlein & Strong, 1951 ; Solem, 1953 ; Abbott, 1954, 1958 ; Kaicher, 1956 ; Keen, 1958)

Cuba (Agnayo & Jaume, 1950)

South Africa (Barnard ; Macnae & Kalk, 1958)

Japan (Iwakawa, 1909, 1919 ; Hirase, 1910)

Philippines (Faustino, 1928)

Australia (Iredale, 1912 ; Hedley, 1912)

Only one malacologist, Nagao (1934, Japan), has adopted either of the emendations of *Vanikoro* (*Vanikoroa* Cossmann).

Merria Gray, 1839(?), the generic name seemingly valid under strict application of the Law of Priority and the new Code (see paragraphs 3 and 7), was first adopted by Hedley (1917, *Journ. Proc. Roy. Soc. New South Wales*,

⁽¹⁾ I favour the spelling VANIKORIDAE, even though VANIKOROIDAE may be preferable etymologically. H. & A. Adams were the first to spell the family-group name correctly (VANIKORIDAE).

51 : Suppl., p. M62). Iredale (1918, *Proc. Malacological Soc. London* 13 : 31) agreed with Hedley that the name *Vanikoro* was invalid, but did not at that time adopt *Merria*. Subsequently, other Australian malacologists have used *Merria* (Macpherson & Chapple, 1951 ; Cotton, 1959 ; J. Allan, 1959). The genus is rarely mentioned in Australian malacological literature. *Merria* has been used more often in the Japanese literature, first by Kuroda (1928, *Cat. Shell-bearing Mollusca Amami-Oshima*, p. 42 ; also 1941, etc.), subsequently by Hirase (1938), Hatai (1941), Oyama (1943), Kira (1945), and by Habe (1961).

Despite careful search, I have found no use of *Merria* in malacological literature published in countries other than Australia and Japan, where it has been used primarily in the last two decades.

Leucotis Swainson, 1840, has never been adopted.

Narica Orbigny, 1842(?), was used fairly often in the nineteenth century, notably by French workers such as Fischer (1885, *Man. Conchyl.*, p. 761). During the twentieth century, *Narica* appears to have been used only by Pelseneer (1906, Belgium), Risbec (1931, 1932, France), and by P.-H. Fischer (1950, France).

11. In view of the very wide use, both old and new, of the invalid name *Vanikoro* Quoy & Gaimard, and in view of the uncertainty of the publication dates and priority of the available names *Merria* Gray, *Leucotis* Swainson, and *Narica* Orbigny, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked to take the following action :—

- (1) to use its plenary powers to validate as a generic name *Vanikoro* Quoy & Gaimard, and
- (2) to place the name on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology : *Vanikoro* Quoy & Gaimard, 1832 (gender : feminine*), type-species, by monotypy, *Sigaretus cancellatus* Lamarck, 1822 ;
- (3) to place the specific name *cancellatus* Lamarck, 1822, as published in the binomen *Sigaretus cancellatus* (type-species of *Vanikoro* Quoy & Gaimard, 1832) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology ;
- (4) to place the name VANIKORIDAE (*nom. correct.* H. & A. Adams, 1854, *pro* VANICOROIDAE Gray, 1840) on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology ;
- (5) to place the following names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology :
 - (a) *Merria* Gray, 1839 (a junior objective synonym of *Vanikoro*) ;
 - (b) *Leucotis* Swainson, 1840 (a junior objective synonym of *Vanikoro*) ;
 - (c) *Narica* Orbigny, 1842 (a junior objective synonym of *Vanikoro*) ;
 - (d) *Nioma*, *Niomia* Gray, 1842, 1847 ;
 - (e) *Vanicoro* Gray, 1840–42 (mis-spelling of *Vanikoro* Quoy & Gaimard, 1832) ;

* Not masculine, as stated in International Code of Zoological Nomenclature [1961, p. 33, among examples to Article 30 b (ii)]. Although Quoy & Gaimard did not express or imply that the name *Vanikoro* was to be considered feminine in gender, every malacologist but Poirier (1954, *Up-to-date syst. list 3200 seashells Greenland to Texas*, p. 50 [mimeographed]) appears subsequently to have considered it feminine (see paragraph 4 above).

- (f) *Vanikoroia* Martin, 1914 (emendation of *Vanikoro* Quoy & Gaimard, 1832);
- (g) *Vanikoroa* Cossmann, 1924 (emendation of *Vanikoro* Quoy & Gaimard, 1832);
- (6) to place the following names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology :
 - (a) VANICOROIDAE Gray, 1840 (type-genus *Vanikoro* Quoy & Gaimard, 1832) (an invalid original spelling for VANIKORIDAE);
 - (b) NARICIDAE Récluz, 1846 (type-genus *Narica* Orbigny, 1842) (a junior objective synonym of VANIKORIDAE);
 - (c) MERRIIDAE Hedley, 1917 (type-genus *Merria* Gray, 1839) (a junior objective synonym of VANIKORIDAE).



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